What an exciting time to be a Western Heights College student! The academic year is well underway with many activities also happening in this busy first term.

Our Year 7 Welcome BBQ was on Thursday evening with many families attending with their Year 7 child. The Year 7 students gave their families a tour of their Learning Community, (Middle Years Red) showed off their work on display and allowed parents to do a quick locker inspection. It was wonderful to meet the families in an informal setting, with lots of chatter about the fantastic start Year 7 students have made to 2015. There was lots of laughter with families mingling and playing games. Our Year 7 students loved showing off their learning spaces and the different areas of their building, knowing the names of the spaces and explaining their use. Thanks to our Year 12 student leaders who assisted with the BBQ.

We are privileged at Western Heights College, having excellent access to learning technology. A great success already this year is our MyLe program (My Learning) where students have their own slate PC. In our third year of the MyLe the program extends across all year levels and most students already have their slate; including 100% of Year 7 students. Teachers now plan learning knowing that students will have access to technology 24/7 and our on-line resources via OneNote, preparing learning that is engaging and stimulating for all students. Please remind your child to recharge their slate each night and bring it to school fully charged each day. If you have not arranged a slate for your child as yet, please contact the College Office to make arrangements for a payment plan that meets your personal needs.

Another way that Western Heights College is out in the lead is providing parents access to the college intranet via the Parent Portal. Each parent has access to this with their own user name and password via the site www.whc.vic.edu.au. Parents who are not new to the college were issued login details last year and these remain current. New parents have now been issued with their login details. If you have any questions, or have forgotten your details, please contact the College Office. The Parent Portal can be used for up to date news about the college, reference information, web messaging and also for making appointments for Student Led Conferences (Years 7 – 10) and Parent/Teacher/Student conversations (Years 11 and 12).
Congratulations to our 2015 college student leaders, with our Year 7 – 10 leaders recently being elected.

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| QUAMBY           |                  |     |
| Isobella         | Wells            | 7   |
| Xavier           | Jeffrey          | 7   |
| Jemma            | Goodall          | 8   |
| Madelaine        | Memoli           | 8   |
| Braydon          | Lamaro           | 8   |
| Georgia          | O’Kane           | 9   |
| Nikolas          | Parry            | 9   |
| Mohammad         | Yousof           | 10  |
| Tyler            | Lewis            | 10  |
| Bailey           | Pilgrim          | 11  |
| Emma             | Hatton           | 11  |
| Shaye Lee        | Gorsuch          | 12  |
| Brandon          | Jeffrey          | 12  |

|                  |                  |     |
| MINERVA          |                  |     |
| Lauryn           | Cottle           | 7   |
| Tyson            | McPoyle          | 7   |
| Kara             | Dalitz           | 8   |
| Thomas           | Bourke           | 8   |
| Joshua           | Bourke           | 9   |
| Simone           | Collins          | 9   |
| Siobhan          | Fitzgerald       | 10  |
| Jan              | Bernabe          | 10  |
| Nicholas         | Leissner         | 11  |
| Kaitlin          | Fedke            | 11  |
| Melissa          | Veljan           | 12  |
| Bonnie           | Brown            | 12  |
| Diaz             | Sutherland       | 12  |

|                  |                  |     |
| VINES            |                  |     |
| Jai              | Dipprose         | 7   |
| Chloe            | Dyer             | 7   |
| Michael          | Moore            | 8   |
| William          | Schepis          | 9   |
| Tristan          | Humm             | 9   |
| James            | Woof             | 10  |
| Shannon          | Simpson          | 10  |
| Michael          | Touhill          | 11  |
| Teisha           | Clifford-Rowles  | 11  |
| Stefania         | Ristuccia        | 12  |
| Aaron            | Down             | 12  |
| David            | Johnson          | 12  |
| Jake             | Scott            | 12  |

Our College leaders were invested at our first College Assembly on Friday morning, held outside in Hamlyn Plaza, the centre of the college, symbolically recognising the college united on one site. It was wonderful to see so many proud parents and family members joining us for the assembly, celebrating the appointment of our new leaders. This is a terrific group of leaders and I am looking forward to their individual and collective achievements this year, leading the student body and contributing to the college life.
Year 7 News

OFF TO A FLYING START!
I would like to thank all parents and guardians for their remarkable support and effort to ensure that all Year 7s are ‘ready to learn.’ Our students are in correct school uniform, have all of their equipment including their study planners and in particular, their slates. We have 100% of students in Year 7 with a study planner and a slate.

PLANNERS:
Please make sure that every Thursday night, you are asking to see your child’s planner. Read over the weekly entries that your child has made and also look for teachers comments. Your child’s mentor will sign/stamp the planner each week and make a comment. Students bring these into Personal Learning to be stamped and their Mentor Teacher will check off that they have kept up the communication between themselves, home and school.

CYBER CATS – YEAR 7 LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT SKILLED STADIUM:
On Tuesday this week, Mrs Deo and Mrs Cramp took 22 Year 7 students to Skilled Stadium to participate in a full day cyber-safety program presented by the Geelong Cats and Headspace Geelong. Cyber Cats is an interactive program aimed at addressing online safety with young people. The students were able to learn more about online bullying, bystander behaviour, digital footprints, sexting, the laws around online behaviour and how to protect their identity.

Highlights of the day included working with Lauren (Cyber Cats co-ordinator) and Naomi (Geelong Cats) to create a film clip using cool props, going up to the stands for photos and listening to Leading Senior Constable Robbie Noggler’s presentation on cyber-safety. In particular, our students were thrilled to meet Geelong Cats players Jake Kolodjashnij and Cameron Delaney. They were able to chat with them, get their autographs, have photos taken with them and include them in the film clips that they created. It was a fantastic day for all participants!

Principal’s Report Continued…

Our house spirit is certainly alive and well, displayed strongly at our College Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to Quamby House winning the carnival and to all the competitors on the day. Our college carnivals are always magnificent events. Thank you to Ms Marli McCarthy, Sports Coordinator and staff for the success of the carnival.

Our new Canteen/Café is on site in the college, which is open to students each day from 8:00am. Our Wednesday morning Breakfast Club has resumed for 2015. Students can purchase a toastie and a fruit box for $1.00 from 8:00am on Wednesdays in the PAF. The PAF dining room is open at this time for students to eat their toasties in a social setting with their mates.

It is wonderful seeing our students proudly wearing the college uniform. Our recent college photos reinforced for me that the vast majority of our students wear their college uniform every day with pride. The Student Dress Code is printed in the Student Study Planner. The students look smart and tidy in their uniform, with everyone displaying their belonging and commitment to Western Heights College.

All students are expected to bring their Study Planner with them to every session/class. The O in SOAR, our college values stands for Organisation demonstrated when students use their planner to organise their learning tasks. Organisation is an essential skill for all students to learn to be able to succeed in their future careers. Study Planners are available at the College Office for $15.00.

This is a very eventful time at Western Heights College, boundless opportunities, experiences and learning for all.

Robyn Anderson
Middle Years Principal
YEAR 7 WELCOME BBQ 17TH FEBRUARY:
Thank you to all students who brought their families along to our Year 7 BBQ. I also thank parents who communicated that they could not attend due to other commitments on this evening. There was a strong message shared by both principals - Mrs Jeffery and Ms Anderson and also by myself as the Year 7 Learning Community Leader that communication between your child, home and school is vital for maximum success of every student.

Some comments from parents at our BBQ were:
‘Oh, he is loving it. Look out as you will be seeing us for the next ten years! I have other siblings coming.’

‘I am so proud of my son, putting himself out of his comfort zone and going for a leadership position, then getting it’

‘Learning here is certainly unique. I am just so happy that you enable students here to keep moving forward and thriving. We can really see just how far they can go when they are advanced learners.’

‘Oh, my daughter is really happy at WHC. She is excited about learning and she loves her subjects’

I sincerely thank the student leaders from the later years who gave up their evening to cook the BBQ, assist in the set up and run our parent survey.

Nicholas Christensen, Courtney Simpson, Bonnie Brown, Eloise Dowthwaite Diaz Sutherland, Kyle Simpson

CAMP NILLAHCOOTIE:
A four page document was sent home on Tuesday 17 February. This document is asking for medical information, emergency contacts for the time at camp, food allergies, photography permission at camp and clothing requirements.

I understand that you have filled out similar forms for Western Heights College, however, the camping staff need this information for your child’s safety and well-being whilst on camp.

These forms are due back ASAP to your child’s mentor.

This camp provides students with the opportunity to mix in a number of formats, thus cultivating a larger social base for each student. Challenging and new experiences will highlight for each student the importance of the whole group functioning together for the camp to be successful. This will enhance students in their preparation for the rest of the year whereby they are required to work in collaborative settings and groupings. Curriculum will be taught prior to and following the camp, with students being assessed on a variety of areas. We are expecting 100 per cent attendance on our Year 7 Camp. If you require support to ensure your child can attend camp, please contact your child’s Mentor Teacher who can certainly assist.

Mrs Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader

FOOD TECHNOLOGY:
The kitchens have been a hive of activity. The Year 7’s have been learning all about how to prepare foods safely, to ensure they don’t make us sick when we sample the delights that they make each week. Last week they made a variety of dipping sauces to smother the fresh fruit skewers they prepared. In this session the students learned how to cut foods safely and how attention to detail can greatly improve the finished product. When the skewers were finished and dipped in chocolate, caramel and yoghurt sauces the students evaluated the sensory properties of their food. The results were recorded in their One Notes. I encourage parents to have a look and ask them about the foods they made in class. If encouraged, they may even make them for you at home.

Luke Scott
LCS and Food Technology Teacher
**Art News**

**YEAR SEVEN ART:**
Students have been learning about traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art. They are gaining an appreciation of this rich and ancient culture. They can recognise Western desert symbols and are planning designs for their own paintings which will go in the ‘Let’s talk recognition’ student exhibition at the Geelong Art Gallery 16/5/15 to 8/6/15.

Contemporary painting by artist Sally Morgan
Traditional artwork using earthy colours.

**YEAR 10:**
Before embarking on their major Skateboard Design Project, students have explored different artistic styles and created these Silver and Gold decorative collages. There are a large number of creative and talented students in this group so the images below show only a small selection of these!

YEAR 10: Before embarking on their major Skateboard Design Project, students have explored different artistic styles and created these Silver and Gold decorative collages. There are a large number of creative and talented students in this group so the images below show only a small selection of these!

**Music News**

There are still vacancies for any student wishing to learn to play a musical instrument at Western Heights College. Tuition is offered for the following instruments, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Bass Guitar, Keyboard, Guitar and Drums. Students are welcome to visit Mrs. Bowden in the music room located in the PAF on Monday or Friday at lunchtime. This may help with the choice and selection of an instrument to learn. The instrument hire fee is $25.00 per term, for students participating in the Instrumental Music Program.

Ms Christina Bowden
Instrumental Music Teacher.

**REMINDER**

Parents/Guardians and reminded that there is no whole-of-school policy to cover medical costs, including ambulance and other transport costs. Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

**2015 VICTORIAN STUDENT PASSES CONCESSION ENTITLEMENT**

All students who have a half year or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), or students aged 17 years and over, are required to obtain a 2015 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement.

Application forms are available from train stations. The cost of the concession pass is $9.00. Both the Myki card and Concession card must be carried at time of travel. Students may be fined if they cannot produce passes on request by inspectors. Please note that School Id cards will not be accepted.

This is for Myki travellers and does not apply for those travelling on Country buses.
Our Year 8 students are quickly settling in to 2015 consolidating on a strong foundation as we move toward the mid point of the first term.

Our students have had the opportunity to learn about a number of different topic areas ranging from Communities to looking at worldly events such focusing on 'The Bali 9,' in their persuasive writing unit for Literacy.

In addition to these, this week our College has exhibited our wonderful students in our swimming carnival that was held on Wednesday. Our students had the opportunity to participate in a range of different events ranging from traditional swimming events to diving and some different, more obscure and entertaining events.

A big thank you goes out to our students who helped out during this day.

A reminder to parents to please ensure that your child remains organized with their correct uniform and equipment to every class, including their slates fully charged. It is wonderful to see our students achieving such high results and this is due to them being well prepared.

This Friday, our first College Assembly for 2015 and with all students on one site, is a very symbolic and exciting event.

Nicholas Chudoschnik
Year 8 Learning Community Leader

The Year 9 students have had a great start to the year. The Year 9 program requires students to have their slate with them at school. It would be great if all students are in the routine to charge their slate every night, so it is ready for the day of learning.

Students are working through their first Literature Circles novel and roles. All Year 9 students will have a novel to read at home. Students are learning about the different Index Laws in Numeracy.

A running program will start this week for Physical Education where the students will have the opportunity to run up to 10km.

All students have started their first selections of Personal Choice subjects, which has allowed them to trial a range of different subjects. This has also allowed students to experience the wonderful facilities that we have here at Western Heights College. Year 9 students have cooked in the fantastic kitchen, completed PRACs in the Science Labs, started dance routines in the Performing Arts Centre, started construction in the Technology Workshop and completed Art pieces in our Di Vinci space.

The Geelong Tertiary Futures Program is coming up later this term. The subject streams are confirmed. It is a very exciting experience for our Year 9 students. The program runs on a Thursday and the dates for this program are 5 March, 12 March, 19 March, 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May, 21 May, 28 May and 4 June - 10 days in total in first semester

YEAR 9 DESIGNS ON PAPER
A fantastic group of students have been working hard on their understanding of perspective and rendering these past few weeks. The images below are only a small representation of some of the work that they have produced so far.

“Winding one point perspective” Pictures -

Mr Greenhalgh
9 Learning Community Leader.
Congratulations to the Year 10 students who are building on their productive start to the year and making the DAT a happy and focused environment. Speaking to students ‘Thursday’ is proving to be the most popular day during which students are doing a different range of learning - VCE Units 1 studies, Production or VET Taster at the Geelong Trade Training Centre. The feedback is an overwhelming ‘tick’ that students love the stimulating learning they are experiencing and making the most in the varied learning spaces.

It is fantastic to see the majority of Year 10 students using their Myle slates in classes.

2015 YEAR 10 TASMANIA TRIP
This year’s Tassie trip will be an exciting opportunity for Year 10 students. It operates on a first come, first served basis, so if this is a trip students are keen to commit to, forms and deposit need to be returned as soon as possible. Please see Ms Smith for an expression of interested form.

CAFÉ Q
Café Q students this week were busy making ravioli from scratch, working in two teams. Each team, with a head chef and the task to make the pasta from scratch, made the filling, rolled the pasta pastry, filled the pasta, cooked a sauce, filled pasta and ate it in a 100 minute session. It was a frantic session with some tremendous results. The Year 7 team was very appreciative of left overs that they ate prior to the information evening. Thankyou to all the students of Café Q. - well done! Mr Scott!

I thought I would start my next few article’s with student’s thoughts on both entering VCE, VCAL or VET subjects and moving onto one site as one College. The following are the opinions on starting VCE by Alana, one of the many students that have impressed me with their attitude and friendliness around the college.

This year was expected to be very different for the students and staff who had moved over from the Quamby campus in 2015, as we were moving into the new buildings on Vines Road. We are now in our fourth week at this campus and personally my experiences in the new VCE building and other buildings around the college have been quite pleasant. The new buildings provide us with exceptional facilities such as science labs, state of the art kitchens and a theatre complete with light and sound desks. So far these facilities have had such a positive impact on our education as they give us the opportunity to work in commercial style spaces. As for the open learning spaces in the VCE building, I am very impressed with the areas provided as they allow us to work both cooperatively and independently during IRP and tutorial sessions. Everybody who makes their way through the building is very respectful and because of this we are able to work quietly and effectively. We are very fortunate to have the chance to undertake our VCE studies in such advanced buildings and environments. I’m sure I speak on behalf of all the staff and students of Western Heights College when I say that everybody is very much looking forward to the great year we have ahead of us in 2015 as well as the many years to come.

Alana Zafra
Year 11 Student.

I would also like to acknowledge the improvement in the uniform of the Year 11 students. To see the students take pride in their uniform has been pleasing. A reminder that facial piercings, even small ones, are not acceptable. The requirement is black leather lace up style school shoes as clearly advised in our uniform code. These shoes also offer greater protection to growing feet particularly in subjects such as Technology, Science or Food Tech.

Finally, I am excited to mention that all Year 11 students completing a VCE Unit 3/4 study have been invited to join the Forty Plus Club for the first time this year. A VCE study score of 40+ is considered an excellent result. This after school club offers a range of advice and skills to help students work towards achieving these results. I cannot recommend these sessions highly enough and encourage all invitees to take up this offer.

Mr Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader
FOCUS DAY
Last Friday, February 13 our Year 12 students travelled to the Deakin University Waterfront Campus for Focus Day. The students took part in a number of workshops. Some were aimed at developing students’ study skills and level of performance, others provided information on tertiary and further education courses. We had great feedback from students. All students conducted themselves in a mature and responsible manner and are to be commended for their efforts.

The Year 12 student panel Jess Gallea, Bessie Hammond, Scott Weber, Ryan Popovski, Tom Whittington and Daniel Jovic, ran a workshop providing an insight into what Year 12 students need to do to achieve their best.

VCE CENTRE
Is it exciting to note that the new soft furnishings for the VCE Centre arrived this week. These resources have been very popular with students and contribute to the flexibility of the learning spaces.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader

ICT News

GOOD NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE ICT TEAM!
The ICT team is pleased to announce a significant increase in the number of students participating in the MyLe program. 2015 is the first year in which all year levels are participating in this program. We want to acknowledge the willingness of our families to get on board as well as the teaching staff for developing curriculum which is enhanced by these sophisticated learning tools. Let’s also acknowledge our students for bringing along their fully charged slates or laptops so that they are ready to learn.

The take-up rate at the time of writing this report is as follows:

- Year 7 - 100%
- Year 8 - 94%
- Year 9 - 92%
- Year 10 - 76%
- Year 11 - 87%
- Year 12 - 92%

Robyn Anderson, Kym Tyzack, Amber Spencer, James Dunlop, Paul Robertson, Glen Smith and Brett Edmonds
College ICT Team
VET Student of the Week - Kellie Goodall
Cert II Animal Studies

Kellie Goodall is a Year 12 student, undertaking her VCE and studying Certificate II in Animal Studies as part of her Year 12 course.

In January of this year Kellie had an amazing opportunity to complete an internship (work experience program) with Australia Zoo in Queensland as a Zoo Keeper Assistant. To achieve a place in this prestigious program she completed a 6 page written application outlining her career aspirations and commitment to working with animals. She was contacted by the Zoo and invited to undertake a Skype interview (her first ever job interview) and impressed the Zoo so much she was offered the position on the spot. Kellie was one of only ten students to be selected from hundreds of applicants across the country.

Kellie’s internship lasted for two weeks during the January school holidays. Her duties were to supervise animals in areas where the public interacted with them, clean and maintain animal enclosures, feed and provide day to day care for animals. The most amazing experience she had was to interact with the giraffes.

Kellie’s career goal is to be an Exotic Animals Vet working in a zoo. She will be applying for Zoology at Deakin University (Waurn Ponds campus) and then hoping to transfer overseas to a university with access to exotic animals. The animals she would most like to work with are big cats.

Kellie is undertaking a VET course – Certificate II in Animal Studies which gives her basic skills and knowledge of animal handling, care and anatomy. Much of the content of this course is relevant to domestic animals. Kellie has aspired to work with animals since she was a small child and the opportunity to undertake the VET certificate while studying VCE has helped her to cement her career goals.

@ the Library

Our first Craft Club “Getting to know you” competition has been well-received by students who have been trying to solve the puzzle of who read what book over the summer holidays! I wonder who the winner will be?

Bookworms Book Club have organised a writing competition among themselves, beginning with the sentence “When I opened the door ….” We will read these to each other and discuss them at our next meeting.

Did you know that students who read for pleasure are also excellent writers? Reading a variety of different writing styles supports student learning in many ways, and our wonderful College Library is very well-resourced with a large variety of books in many different genres and styles. Please encourage your children to read. The benefits of reading are many, and it will help them achieve a higher level of learning, and a lifelong love of reading.

For the parents out there who enjoy books and reading, the College Library holds a Parents and Friends Book Club, held on the first Wednesday of every month, between 7 and 8pm. Please come along and enjoy the books we have to offer, have a chat with like-minded adults and enjoy some coffee and cake with us! I hope to see you there!

Ms. Kerrie Sirotich
College Library

Carol Jansen
LY Principal and VET Coordinator
Welcome back!
It is already a couple of weeks into the term, and I am still loving the freshness, newness and atmosphere of our now united college. I have been privileged to visit or be at many different schools, and so it is without hesitation I can say Western Heights College is truly unique! I do not think there ever will be a school with such aesthetically pleasing grounds, atmosphere and learning communities like ours, and I have been more than impressed with the way our students have taken to it. All natural, almost as if we had been here a long time already!

As part of our community we will continue to ensure we support you all to be able to get the very best you can out of your learning, engagement and personal development. It is a privilege for me and my colleagues to be able to share in this journey. Each one of us is very unique, and each one of us share that uniqueness in a way that forges, builds and maintains a powerful and supportive community.

A theme and discussion that has been discussed recently has been around what exactly is encouragement. In our school where our focus and practice is staunchly modelled on positive behaviours, encouragement can be seen as a word thrown around similar to affirmation, or even “saying nice things to make you feel better”. Encouragement for me and for the college is far deeper than that. The word literally means semantically “to fill with courage” – therefore when we wish to encourage, we want to build people up to be the best they can be and to have the tools, resources and resilience to be able to tackle life’s challenges with strength and success.

That is why we encourage attendance – it is not a suggestion, we wish to empower students to be here, build students up and to ensure they can reach untapped potential. That is why we encourage class engagement – to help students find the strength and ability in being able to learn, be challenged and grow. That is why we encourage community – we seek to strengthen the bonds between our student and staff learners (yes, we are all a community of learners ultimately!).

One of the highlights for me is seeing how our students grow as young women and men. Literally, I am still always slightly annoyed when our students who were smaller than I was in December last year are now taller than !! And as one Year Nine lad said to me this morning...’yep, and I’m gonna get bigger and bigger, but you won’t!’

I look forward to working with you all this year, and I wish you all a fantastic fortnight,

Marcus Allport
College Chaplain

A big, big welcome back again to everyone! This is the second edition of the newsletter which means we have been on site for nearly a month now. Time is flying indeed! It is fantastic from a wellbeing perspective seeing how our magnificent new buildings are being taken to by our students, and how aesthetically pleasing they are proving – all contributing to passionate and engaged learning!

We have many services to offer in order to assist you and your child gain the most in their educational and personal development. We have a number of services in addition to our own team available on site – NHRODAH psychological provision, GNN (the Geelong North Network) psychology, social workers, speech pathology etc. Please see your student’s mentor or one of us for more information.

A number of programs will commence within the next fortnight – watch this space for more details!
Every Wednesday morning 8.00 – 8.45 am is the college Breakfast Programme in the PAF. This year the programme is flourishing due to the superb new space – a kitchen attached to an informal cafe area with a delightful view across the school. $1.00 for a toasted sandwich together with a box of juice. A particular thank you to Joel Murdoch and Will Schepis of Year 9 for their contribution to the program so far.

A final note – attendance. Yes, it is still our main push! We will be working very hard with your child to ensure they are engaged in school and learning, so that they get the very best out of their education. We want them to be set up for life. To do this, we need them here! If you are finding it challenging having your child attend, please get in contact with us immediately.

One of the many aspects of life at our college is being able to share in and celebrate the success of our students both inside and outside of school. As we kick off this year it has been great to be able to do this with Jesse Stewart of year 9BR! Jesse is an up and coming scooter champion, having two weekends ago won 1st place for the ASA (Australian Scooter Association) in his age bracket.

Recently Jesse won 1st place again, at the Scooter Competition held at the Park, Geelong. When asked about scooting and his aspirations, Jesse said he aims to turn professional in the near future, and that when scooting he feels good; especially as he gets to do this with his mates, and gets to see them (and himself) improve!

Have a wonderful week

Mr Paul Rogers and the Wellbeing Team

Jesse Stewart of year 9BR!
My name is Rhiannon Billman and I am 16 years old in Year 11. This week I auditioned for X-Factor Australia. On Sunday I had to set the alarm for 4:30am, and left home at 5:30am for the first audition at Mooney Valley Race Course. Grace Arnott (another Year 11 student) and my cousin, came with me and we arrived at 6:30am to join the queue.

We waited just under 3 hours to go inside, we were the second people at the auditions. I registered and went to the first waiting room. After 10 minutes I was called into the audition room where one of the producers was sitting. I stood up in front of him, introduced myself and the song and auditioned. Unfortunately my first audition didn’t go to plan as I struggled to control my nerves. The producer told me that I had a great voice but needed to sort out my nerves, then he asked me to come back the next day.

On Monday we arrived back at the racecourse at around about 10am. Once again I went through the process of registering and went upstairs to the waiting room. This time I had my cousin and friends with me. They encouraged me to stand up in front of the waiting crowd to rehearse and shake my nerves off, so I did. Ten minutes later I was inside the auditioning room in front of another director. Once again I introduced myself and my song. Thankfully my nerves were under control. After I sang my version of “Someone like you” by Adele the producer handed me a yellow ticket. The yellow ticket meant I had to go and sing in front of the Executive Producer, so I did. The Executive Producer sat in his chair just staring at me for about 2 minutes, he smiled and told me he would give me a call in May. I looked at him confused, he then said “You got through, I will call you in May”. I started tearing up and walked out in shock. Everyone saw my tears and started to support me saying, “It’s okay, next year” I didn’t tell them that I knew that I had gotten through. I wiped my tears and walked back into the waiting room. I walked up to my cousin and started crying again, then I told her I had made it through and she was thrilled for me. I called my mum and let her know my achievement and she burst into tears.

I have never achieved something as big in my life until this and I am proud of myself for getting through. In May I find out if I get through to the live auditions. Wish me luck!

Rhiannon Billman  
Year 11 Student

YEAR 12 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN STUDYING MEDICINE, DENTISTRY OR HEALTH SCIENCE IN 2016

Registrations for the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) 2015 are now open.

**UMAT2015 Key Dates:**
- Registrations open: First week in December 2014
- Registrations close: Friday 5 June 2015 5pm AEST
- Late Registrations close: Friday 19 June 2015 5pm AEST
- Applications for special test conditions: Friday 19 June 2015
- UMAT test date: Wednesday 29 July 2015
- Results released: late September 2015

You must sit the UMAT if you are thinking of applying for the following courses at Victorian Universities:
- La Trobe University - Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science
- Monash University – Medicine

The only identification documents accepted for UMAT 2015 are:
- Current passport
- Current photo-bearing driver’s licence
- Current photo-bearing Australian Keypass
- Current photo-bearing Australian Proof of Age Card
- Current photo-bearing New Zealand 18+ Card

Remember:
- Make sure you are registered before the close of registration or you will not be able to sit the UMAT.
- Access the practice materials before the test. Only available online through the ACER website. Practice Test 1 will be included with the application pack.
- Only Year 12 students are eligible.
- Watch the tutorials and complete the quiz questions on the ACER website in preparation for the test.
- Follow UMAT on Facebook and Twitter.

For further information, including the full information booklet and lists of courses in other states, and to apply to sit the UMAT please visit [http://umat.acer.edu.au](http://umat.acer.edu.au).
AVALON AIRSHOW
Congratulations to the following students have been successful in securing a place to attend the Careers Information Day at the Avalon Airport next Friday the 27 February.

Dallas Riccardi
Jan Bernabe
Zachary Stephenson
Phuong Quach
Ryan Patti

ALCOA FUTURE LEADERS OF INDUSTRY (AFLOI) PROGRAM FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS
Applications are open for the AFLOI program this year.

What do you do as part of this program?
The program will commence in April 2015 and run through until Oct 2015. As a participant you will be involved in a number of activities which will enable you to:

- Hear from people who have pursued a career in advanced technologies, design, innovative manufacturing & engineering
- Participate in leadership activities
- Develop presentation and communication skills
- Visit industry sites
- Get involved in hands-on activities
- Have the opportunity to shadow mentors in industry
- Explore university and TAFE options

Am I eligible to apply?
√ You must be a Year 9 or 10 student in the Geelong region.
√ If you intend to participate in a ‘buddy’ work experience block, you must turn 15 years old before the 21 September 2015. This will be up to 3 days in a related AFLOI industry environment during the Term 3 (September/October) school holiday period. Though not mandatory, we highly recommend you undertake work experience to explore the industry fully.
√ If you are potentially interested in pursuing a professional pathway or trade into any aspect of advanced technology, design, engineering or innovative manufacturing you are encouraged to apply.
√ If you have a strong interest in a math/science pathway we encourage you to apply

How do I get involved?
Complete the application form on the home page and provide answers to all six questions. Make sure you and your parent/guardian signs the application & that Tracey receives it by Friday 20 March.
Students will be notified of the outcome of their application over the April school holidays.

LOOKING FOR YEAR 10 GIRLS THAT ARE HANDS-ON LEARNERS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE OR MANUFACTURING?
The Geelong Regional Vocational Education and Training Council (GRVEC) are looking to run a program just for girls. They are calling it GLaAM (Girls Learning about Advanced Manufacturing) and are looking for some Year 10 girls at Western Heights College to participate in a focus group. If you have a student who is interested in exploring a career in science, trades or manufacturing this could be for them!

The GLaAM program will have a focus on creation, design and innovation in advanced manufacturing. GRVEC will be asking about what students would be interested in i.e. hands on project, tour of industries, what type of manufacturing places, speakers etc.

Students don’t have to commit to the program – but what a great opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about how they would like to see the program run!

If students could please web message me by the end of the day on Friday if they would be interested in participating in the focus group and we'll set up a meeting for next week. No reason or explanation required, just that they are interested!

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR WESTERN HEIGHTS COLLEGE PATHWAYS AMBASSADORS
In 2015, Pathways Ambassadors will be introduced at each year level.

Responsibilities will include:
- Collection of posters/promotional material to go into their communities
- Keeping material in communities up to date including pathways/careers notice boards
- Sharing information at year level assemblies
- Posting on the blog
- Sharing information about what would work best for their year level at consultative meetings

Students are asked to submit an application form from the home page.
Thank you to all parents who have attended their children’s MIPs appointments. It's lovely to meet you and to hear about your child’s career aspirations. They are all thinking about some very exciting things.

Students can check their MIPs appointment time on the Careers Board in the Year 10 Learning Community, or via the online booking system - Curriculum > MIPS Interviews.

Students are asked to make their way over to my office in the Administration Building for their scheduled appointment to ensure that we can make the most of our time together.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend, so please let me know if you have work commitments at the scheduled time and I am happy to try and reschedule.

CHECK OUT THE BLOG FOR FEBRUARY UPDATES FROM UNIVERSITIES
http://careerswhc.edublogs.org/

Miss Tracey Jeffery
MIPs Co-ordinator

Pathways News Continued….
Welcome to the 2015 Junior Football/Netball/Auskick season.
We invite all past, present and new players to the club. Junior Clinics, BBQ and Activities will be held on the night. It promises to be another fantastic year at the Dragons.

Registrations are now open for the following:

- Junior Football U9, U10, U11, U12, U14 & U16’s.
- Junior Girls Football U13’s and Youth.
- Junior Netball: vacancies for U15’s and U17’s.
- U11’s Netball begin training on 24th February at 4pm.

Auskick Program – Online Registrations only. www aflauskick com au follow the prompts.

*The 16 week Auskick Program will begin Sunday 19th April at 10.30am.

For further information please contact:

Junior Football Coordinator:
Jared Stanley 0407 505 726

Junior Netball Coordinator:
Carmen Williams 0408 294 415

Auskick:
John Bright (President) 0408 801 868

Like us on Facebook www facebook com/ dragonsbellpark
Check out what’s happening with the team
bellparkdragons teamapp com

Our website will be operating soon
www bellparksportandrec com au